

Meeting Date: May 22, 2008

Agenda Item No. 16

Agenda Item: Hunter Surveys/Predator Control

Approved by: ____

Prepared by: Brad Compton

Background:

Aerial surveys, primarily using helicopters, currently provide the foundation for deer and elk population monitoring in Idaho. A recent review of deer and elk population monitoring programs conducted by the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies is attached.

Predator management activities conducted by Wildlife Services also relies heavily on the use of aircraft, both helicopter and fixed-wing.

Both the cost of aircraft rentals and availability of suitable aircraft and pilots continue to be a challenge for maintaining aerial-based population monitoring and predator management activities.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Department aircraft rental and aerial safety requirements are guided by Department policy 17.04.

Public Involvement Process:

None.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff from the Department and Wildlife Services will provide a review of current deer and elk population monitoring, and predator management techniques.

Justification:

Informational.